

Veterans Day observed across the commonwealth

On page 2: National food service competition

Past and present Veterans honored

Virginia National Guard personnel took part in Veterans Day observations across the commonwealth that included a wreath laying, speeches, static displays and marching in parades. At the Commonwealth Veterans Day Ceremony held Nov. 11, 2012, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, presented the Virginia National Guard memorial wreath in honor of past and present Veterans at the Shrine of Memory.

“This is a time of remembrance and appreciation for those men and women who have served bravely and honorably in the defense and security of our nation,” Long said in his Veterans Day message. “Defending this great nation is a generational duty that continues today.”

Members of the Virginia Defense Force volunteered their time to provide parking assistance for the event co-hosted by the American Legion District 11 and the Virginia War Memorial.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/14/2514/>



Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr. and his wife Diane present the Virginia Guard memorial wreath in honor of past and present Veterans Nov. 11, 2012, at the Virginia War Memorial.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Regimental Muster for 116th Infantry held in Staunton

Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers, friends and family of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team past and present gathered Nov. 10, 2012, at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton to reconnect and to celebrate the 45th annual Muster of the 116th Infantry Regiment.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/13/2481/>

Scott promoted to brigadier general

Col. Steven T. Scott was promoted to brigadier general Nov. 3, 2012, at the Virginia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Sandston in a ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/06/2508/>

Air Guard engineers conduct FTX focused on mobility and deployment skills

Approximately 120 Airmen from the Virginia Air National Guard's Camp Pendleton-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron focused on mobility training and deployment skills Nov. 1-4, 2012, during a field training exercise at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/06/2486/>

Unmanned aerial system platoon resets after Afghanistan deployment

Fourteen Virginia Guard Soldiers traveled north to Maryland in October to requalify on their RQ-7B Shadow tactical unmanned aerial systems as part of their post-deployment reset training.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/05/2450/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Dec. 12: Employment Training

The Virginia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Virginia Employment Commission are partnering to provide employment assistance training to veterans and service members from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott at 6710 Commerce Street in Springfield, Va.

This full day workshop is at NO COST to service members, veterans and dependents, but space is limited. Register at this email: registerforvirginiaesgrevents@gmail.com.

Please email that you are registering for the workshop in Springfield, and include your name, email address, best contact phone number, and former or current military affiliation (rank, unit, and branch).

Soldiers compete for national food service honors

As one of seven regional winners, Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, competed for a top spot in the national-level Philip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service Nov. 2 at Fort Pickett.

The Soldiers of the 1032nd are no stranger to competing at the national level, taking the first place spot in the National Guard Field Kitchen category in 2009 and a runner-up spot in the 2012 competition after missing the top spot by just three points.

"Honestly, a lot of our success is having a great cooking staff that works for the 1032nd and a great 1032nd that supports the cooking staff," said Sgt. Vincent Woodmancy, one of the competing cooks.

The windup for the competition began on Oct. 29th, just as Hurricane Sandy began pelting the commonwealth with rain and heavy winds. Undeterred, the 1032nd kitchen staff, along with help from Soldiers assigned to kitchen patrol forged ahead, setting up their site despite the rain and carefully reviewing and planning for all parts of the evening meal they'd be serving.

"We worked under Hurricane Sandy, under tremendous winds and rain, to get this thing set up," said Master Sgt. Gregory Mason, state food advisor for the Virginia Army National Guard. "But they just kept going and this 1032nd unit is ridiculous for how devoted they are."

All teams start the competition with 1,000 points. From there, points can be deducted for not following recipe cards, for not following regulations or proper procedures, or for maintenance or sanitation issues.

"The majority of the points you win is on the kitchen itself," explained Mason. "And we've been working hard to make sure everything is set up right."

Once the site was set up, complete with hasty fighting positions, a sand table and a dining area, competition day arrived and the Soldiers set to work cooking an evening meal to feed 70 Soldiers. Three judges – a civilian chef and two military representatives – watched as the 1032nd prepared a meal that included chicken parmesan, green beans with mushrooms and a strawberry glazed cake. As the cooks cooked, the judges inquired, asking questions about the size of cut vegetables, oven temperatures, and testing the knowledge of the 1032nd kitchen staff.

"There's no tension up there at all – everything is running like clockwork," Mason said, as mealtime drew near. "I think they're going to do real well here."

Mealtime arrived and Soldiers began filing through the mobile field kitchen, and the kitchen staff carefully doled out equal portions to all diners. Virginia Guard senior leaders including Brig. Gen. William R. Phillips, land component commander for the Virginia National Guard, Col. Michelle Rose, commander of the 329th RSG, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis A. Green, Virginia Guard senior enlisted leader, all stopped by to show their support of the 1032nd and to enjoy the meal the kitchen staff had



Soldiers from the Gate-City based 1032nd Transportation Company serve an evening meal for the national-level Philip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service Nov. 2 at Fort Pickett.

worked so hard to create.

Established in 1968, the Connelly program aims to recognize excellence in Army food service and is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of the International Food Service Executives Association. The program aims to improve the professionalism of Army food service personnel in order to provide the best product and service to military members and to provide recognition for the excellence of Army kitchen staffs in dining facilities and during field kitchen operations.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/06/2462/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Fort Pickett to host Open House Nov. 17

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/07/2458/>

Photos: Va., Tenn. National Guard leaders attend ESGR Veteran's Day and Employers Recognition Luncheon

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631977117932/>

Photos: GSA hosts public meeting for proposed training center at Fort Pickett and Pickett Park

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631962343454/>

Photos: Va. Guard hosts regional ESGR signing ceremony

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631994321318/>

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